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CHAL-0653-59

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1 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD 25X1A

SUBJECT: Air Weather Package

1. The following list of personnel attended a meeting in the Project Materiel Branch to determine what problems were involved in support of the new weather package presently in possession of overseas detachments and to determine courses of action to overcome such problems. This meeting was held on 28 April 1959.

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2. The present procedures for obtaining spares in support of the old and new weather packages were considered and it was the consensus of opinion that a standard procedure of resupply must be developed if any success were to be obtained in support of both the old and new weather packages. Present procedures entail requisitioning by message to Major Barnett who in turn would relay the information to Major Smith, Air Weather Service, and from him to Mr. Maxim, WADC, who personally developed and fabricated these weather packages. Mr. Maxim in turn would scrounge the parts required and modify same as necessary for shipment to the detachments. There had been no clear cut procedure for requisitioning items for the old weather package of which there were four in number (Two in FOG inventory and two in Project inventory). Personnel from WYAMA and WSP0 indicated that they were not quite sure of how items other than those in Air Force stocks were being obtained in support of the weather package. There are four new packages in being, one with FOG, two with the Project and one at ARDC and to the best of anyones knowledge attending the meeting, FOG had made no attempt to fly the package allotted to them. Major Smith, AWS, was to attempt to obtain this weather package for use within the Project should USAF pose no objection.

USAF review(s) completed.

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3. Mr. Maxim explained the weather package in detail indicating a break down of each major item and explained its purpose. There are numerous bits and pieces which are interchangeable between the old and the new package. The primary differences evolve around the addition of the Radan units and the AJHL Recorder which was added to the new package. The Radan poses no serious problem in that there are suitable substitutions for this item within Air Force stocks and for this reason it was determined that WRAMA should support both FOG and the Project in furnishing Radan units as required. All other items will become the responsibility of the Project Depot. The AJHL Recorder is critical and action must be taken to procure additional units at the earliest practicable date. Mr. Maxim was to have had available a machine run listing of spares required in support of this equipment, however, due to other pressing projects he was unable to provide this list at the time. Contractors involved in manufacture of required items were furnished, however, no costs were available which could be presented to support this program. The reason for the lack of Fly-Away-Kits or other stock levels due to the rapidity with which the package was placed in operation in the field without appropriate suitability tests being run. We are in fact conducting such suitability tests at our operational sites at this time. A provisional meeting will be held on the week of 11 May at Headquarters, AMC, to compile machine run listings of required spares for appropriate FAK's for field units and also depot back-up spares.

4. The feasibility of obtaining three additional new weather packages was considered. This would provide an additional package at each CHALICE Detachment and one for Depot stocks to be utilized either by FOG or the Project. "Lead Time" for procurement was estimated at one year. Cost was undeterminable at this time. Due to anticipated operational use of [] from the standpoint of time, it was concluded that this should not be pursued further. The "Black Box" concept of replacement will be utilized. It is anticipated utilizing IAC as the supply contractor for future provisioning. Maintenance will continue through utilization of AWS airman technicians.

5. Major Smith, AWS, reiterated that take from weather missions utilizing the old weather package was of little or no value in explaining missions being accomplished in the field. When such information is presented to scientific agencies, its value is immediately assessed as negative. For this reason the requirement for running missions utilizing the old weather package is questionable.

6. All individuals present concurred in attempting to overcome all problems as rapidly as possible in order to maintain the plausibility of our present cover story. According to Major Smith the primary purpose of the weather package is to provide such a cover story for Project CHALICE and the secondary purpose is to obtain scientific data for NASA and other interested scientific organizations.

SIGNED

SECRETDeputy Chief, Materiel Branch
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